

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections contained in the Office Action of October 4, 2006 is respectfully requested.

A substitute abstract is enclosed. However, it is noted that the abstract maintains the reference characters. It is submitted that it is common and indeed beneficial for reference characters to be contained in the abstract; the abstract does not need to be read independently of the drawings. Indeed, reference characters are required in International Applications.

A number of minor editorial changes have been made to the specification so as to generally improve the form thereof. Such changes include an amendment to the title and the remainder of the specification more clearly directing the disclosure toward the method that has been elected.

The Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. New claims have now been submitted clearly directed to a method. Further, claims 32-43 have been rewritten to address the Examiner's concerns as well as to generally reorganize the claims. No limitation of any of the claims is intended by the redrafting of the claims in their new form, however. Correspondingly, the apparatus claims have been redrafted as new claims 53-61.

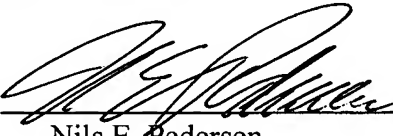
As all issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action have now been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application as a whole should be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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